CLAIMS

1. A method of recording audiovisual content in a communications network including at least one network recorder able to record audiovisual content broadcast on
5   a plurality of broadcast channels, characterized in that said audiovisual content is recorded by a network recorder at the request of a user having a communications terminal able to exchange information with at least one network recorder via said communications network, said
10   method comprising the following steps:

     · the network recorder declaring itself in the network, the declaration indicating at least:

        * a means of access to said recorder,

        * a list of broadcast channels whose broadcast
15   audiovisual content can be recorded by the network recorder,

     · the user using a terminal to select a network recorder able to record at least one required audiovisual content and to connect thereto using said access means in
20   order to request the recording of said at least one audiovisual content, said request including an identification of said at least one audiovisual content to be recorded that consists in a unique reference of said content and/or an identification of an instance of
25   said content consisting of at least the identification of the broadcast channel of said instance accompanied by the indication of a broadcast time band, and

     · the network recorder sending a response to the user's recording request containing, if the request is
30   accepted, an identification of the accepted recording request for each content to be recorded.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it also includes the steps of:
35   · for the user, if the request is accepted, sending the network recorder a recording request status request

indicating at least said identification of the accepted recording request, and

      · for the network recorder, sending a response to the recording request status request containing at least the identification of the accepted recording request and the status of the request.

3. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that it also includes the steps consisting in the user formulating a request to cancel an accepted recording request or to delete a content recorded by the network recorder, indicating at least the identification of the accepted recording request.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said means of access to a network recorder consist in an address of said recorder in the network.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 characterized in that said means of access to a network recorder consists in a directory listing operations specific to the network recorders, each network recorder being identified by said operation.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that said list of broadcast channels whose broadcast audiovisual content can be recorded by the network recorder contains the address of each of the broadcast channels, optionally accompanied by the charging policy of the network recorder for each of the broadcast channels.

7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the declaration of the network recorder in the network contains the conversion capabilities of said recorder.

8. A method according to claim 7, characterized in that said conversion capabilities concern bit rate reduction and/or transcoding of the audiovisual content.

9. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the declaration of the network recorder in the network contains the protocols that the network recorder can use to transfer the recorded audiovisual content to the user's terminal.

10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said time band indication contains the broadcast start time and the broadcast end time or the duration of broadcasting on the broadcast channel of said instance.

11. A method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, characterized in that said request contains the conversion capabilities required by the user for transferring the recording to the user's terminal.

12. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that, if the request is accepted, the response from the network recorder contains said unique reference of the requested audiovisual content.

13. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that, if the request is accepted, the response from the network recorder contains the scheduled end of recording time and/or the cost of said recording.

14. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that, if the request is accepted, the response from the network recorder contains the time for which the network recorder will keep the recording.

15. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that, if the request fails, the response from the network recorder contains the reason for failure.

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16. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 15, characterized in that said recording request status request contains said unique reference of the content and/or the identifier of the user.

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17. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 16, characterized in that, if the request has not yet been executed, the response to the recording request status request contains the unique reference of the content

15   and/or the scheduled end date and time.

18. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 16, characterized in that, in the case of an unknown request, the response to the recording request status request

20   contains the unique reference of the content.

19. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 16, characterized in that, if the request fails, the response to the recording request status request contains the

25   unique reference of the content.

20. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 16, characterized in that, if the recorded content is available, the response to the recording request status

30   request contains an address at which the recorded content is available.

21. A method according to claim 20, characterized in that said response contains the unique reference of the

35   content and/or the time for which the network recorder will keep the recording.

22. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 21, characterized in that said request to cancel the recording request or to delete the recorded content contains the unique reference of the content and/or the
5   identifier of the user.

23. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 22, characterized in that said request contains an identification of the user.
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24. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 23, characterized in that, if the request fails and a plurality of contents has been requested, the response from the network recorder to the user's recording request
15   contains an identifier of the content for which the request has failed.